

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Madam Director:

We appeal once again for the expedited approval of federal funding for the Galveston Harbor Channel Extension project, which will achieve immediate returns, while doing a small—but significant—part to relieve the U.S. supply chain crisis. An immediate discretionary allotment of \$8 million to complete this modification—authorized in the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) of 2018, with a Chief’s Report issued on August 8, 2017—will create an almost-immediate utilization gain of \$35 million, and potentially \$100 million, annually.

Dredgers contracted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are currently in the Galveston Harbor Channel completing routine maintenance, potentially through the end of June 2022. This fortuitous timing offers an opportunity to reduce the total project cost by \$8 million, or 50 percent compared to its authorized federal allocation of \$16 million. The project will deepen the final half-mile at the west end of the channel from 41 feet to a depth of 46 feet. *Otherwise, the cost of re-deploying dredgers at a future date will be significantly higher, both in precious taxpayer dollars and in unnecessarily redundant greenhouse emissions.*

Paradoxically, most of the productive, federal revenue-generating activity is located along the neglected, westernmost stretch of the waterway—hence the need for an extension project requiring its own authorization in 2018. Until this final half-mile is completed, the Port of Galveston and its corollary shipping businesses are unable to maximize the movement of desired (non-fossil) commodities, leaving much-needed revenues and federal tax receipts on the table.

The Port of Galveston connects supply chains to at least 16 states across the country. This expedited allotment will create a wide-ranging boost to the U.S. economy, a safer port, and a diminution of greenhouse gas emissions, through the most efficient expenditure of taxpayer dollars. It will produce immediate economic returns for the Gulf region and all communities that depend on the harbor’s critical supply chains, while seizing the limited opportunity to do so in a cost-effective manner that simultaneously minimizes environmental impact.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We would be glad to answer any questions or discuss this request with you or your staff at any time.

Respectfully,



RANDY K. WEBER
Member of Congress



HENERY CUELLAR
Member of Congress



KAY GRANGER
Member of Congress



SYLVIA GARCIA
Member of Congress



JOHN CARTER
Member of Congress



LIZZIE FLETCHER
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KEVIN BRADY
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